



MONTHLY NOTICES

OF THE

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

Vol. LXIX.

APRIL 7, 1909.

No. 6

Professor H. H. TURNER, D.Sc., F.R.S., VICE-PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

G. A. Hemsalech, 6 Place de la Sorbonne, Paris ;
 Griffith Parry Jenkins, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada ;
 Richard Henry Norman, M.D., B.S., Canonbury Park South, N. ;
 Harry Edwin Wood, M.Sc., Chief Assistant, Government
 Observatory, Johannesburg, South Africa ; and
 Julien Périquier, 9 rue Gimelli, Toulon, France,

were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

The following candidates were proposed for election as Fellows of the Society, the names of the proposers from personal knowledge being appended :—

Alec Joscelyne Bamford, B.A., Assistant Astronomer to the Ceylon Government, The Observatory, Colombo, Ceylon (proposed by F. J. M. Stratton) ;
 Rev. Basil Staunton Batty, Bolsover Vicarage, Chesterfield, and Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall, S.W. (proposed by Charles Pendlebury) ;
 George Frederick Dodwell, B.A., The Observatory, Adelaide, South Australia (proposed by Sir Charles Todd) ; and
 Rev. William Francis Rigge, S.J., Professor of Physics, and Director of the Observatory, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A. (proposed by the Rev. Walter Sidgreaves).

The following were proposed by the Council as Associates of the Society :—

Dr. W. de Sitter, Professor of Astronomy in the University of Leyden ; and
 Professor Karl Schwarzschild, Director of the Observatory, Göttingen.

Sixty-six presents were announced as having been received since the last meeting, including, amongst others :—

Astrographic Chart ; 18 charts, presented by the Royal Observatory, Greenwich ; 13 presented by the Tacubaya Observatory, and 41 by the French Minister of Public Instruction, from the Algiers, Bordeaux, and Paris Observatories.

Practical Suggestions on Mathematical Notation and Printing.

[Reprinted by permission from the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*,
A., vol. lxxxvii., 1909.]

It is a subject of common complaint that mathematical manuscripts are often prepared for press without due regard for the difficulties encountered in setting up the type, or for the appearance of the printed page.

The Council of the Royal Society have had under consideration for some time the desirability of taking steps with a view to diminish the expense of printing and proof-corrections, and to avoid waste of space, and undue variety of notation in papers by different authors in the same volume. They have approved of the reprinting, with modifications and additions, of the substance of a Report to the British Association on this subject, in the hope that greater uniformity and facility in mathematical typography may thereby be promoted. The recommendations which follow are now offered, not in any authoritative way, but simply as a consensus of opinion ; to this end it is understood that they were submitted in advance, for consideration and criticism, to the Council of the London Mathematical Society.

*Abstract of Report of British Association Committee.**

With a view to the questions referred to them for consideration, the Committee appointed by the British Association made inquiries into the nature and processes of mathematical printing, and the difficulties attendant thereon ; and it appeared to them that a statement of the results of these inquiries would form the best introduction to the suggestions which they had to make.

The process of “composition” of ordinary matter consists in arranging types uniform in height and depth (or “body” as it is termed) in simple straight lines. The complications peculiar to mathematical matter are mainly of two kinds.

* Report of the Committee, consisting of W. Spottiswoode, F.R.S., Prof. Stokes, F.R.S., Prof. Cayley, F.R.S., Prof. Clifford, F.R.S., and J. W. L. Glaisher, F.R.S., appointed to report on Mathematical Notation and Printing, with the view of leading mathematicians to prefer in optional cases such forms as are more easily put into type, and of promoting uniformity of notation.—*B. A. Report*, 1875, pp. 337–339.